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December 11, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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Through: Mr. [REDACTED]

Subject: Historical Study: The Central Intelligence Agency
An Instrument of Government
1940 - 1950

1. The study and interviews, with accompanying documents have been left in the custody of Mr. Houston, General Counsel, until he and Mr. [REDACTED] have advised the Director in regard to their classification and distribution.

2. The historical study has been written for as large an audience in the Government as the highly confidential nature of its contents will permit. Members of the National Security Council should read it if they so desire. The files of the Council were opened for this investigation. It could not have been accomplished without the enthusiastic help of Admiral Souers. Former Directors and others who have granted interviews should have the right to see the study. They responded generously from their knowledge and experience to aid the present Director and his successors. Their contributions have been incorporated in the findings of the historical study. To remove these materials from the published text in order to obtain indiscriminate distribution would destroy a great part of its value.

3. All documents obtained outside the Agency have been used with the consent of authorities at the source.

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[REDACTED]
Historian

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